It was a dark and stormy night...

The original Hackers Conference was held in 1984 in Marin County, California. It was organized by the people at Whole Earth and The Point Foundation, and was catalyzed by the publication of Steven Levy's book *HACKERS: The Heroes of the Computer Revolution.* The Whole Earth people figured that it would be really great to get some of the people mentioned in that book together for a weekend and "see what happened". It was a resounding success. The attendees had a great time, and a video documentary resulted which aired nationwide on PBS.

In the early summer of 1986, several of us were participating in a conference on the WELL (Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link) when the subject of the Hackers Conference came up and it was mentioned "Why not do it again?" These were, as they say, the fateful words. Not quite six months later, we had managed to put together Hackers 2.0, which was held in Santa Clara County, CA. It, too, was a resounding success. An informal poll on the last day showed overwhelming support for an annual Hackers Conference, which we've been doing. Some people only attend every other year.

This weekend is meant to be one long, high-powered, energetic exchange of ideas as a catalyst for the future. The free flow of information is encouraged. Partly for that reason, the very few press attendees are told that everything said or overheard outside of the plenary sessions is strictly off the record unless otherwise specifically arranged. Sunday, however, is open to invited press specifically for publication purposes.

The Hackers Conferences are strictly invitation-only. Unhappily, there are limits to the number of people we can accommodate. How do we know whom to invite? We're inviting you because we think that you'll bring something to the conference: some idea, contribution, energy, or whatever it is that makes things work. We think you're a Hacker: someone who enjoys pushing the envelope, bypassing limits, discovering knowledge, inventing solutions, adventuring into uncharted areas.

Here are some of the people that have registered for prior Hackers Conferences. The mix of attendees changes each year.

Arthur Abraham
Roe R. Adams III
Allan Alcorn
Dennis R. Allison
Jeff Anton
Jack Armstrong
Nickey Atchison
Bill Atkinson
Greg Bailey
Bob Baldwin
Mike Ballard
Phillip Balma
John Perry Barlow
Allen Baum
Peter Baum
Bruce Baumgart
Andrew Beals
Mike Bentley
Gerry Berkowitz
David W. Berry
Ken Biba
Robert Bickford
E. Steuart Bjornsson
Nancy Blachman
Jim Blinn
Steve Bobker
Stewart J. Bonn
David Boulton
Russell Brand
Stewart Brand
Larry Breed
William Bricken
Meredith Bricken
Lester S. Briney
Dennis Brothers
Donald M. Brown
William Buckley
Bill Budge
John Bumgarner
David Bunnell
Bill Burns
Bob Burns
Randy Burns
Nolan Bushnell
Michael Butler
Art Canfil
Peter Capek
Steve Capps
Ed Catmull
David Caulkins
Richard Cheshire
Harry Chesley
Ward L. Christensen
Fred Cisin
Steve Cisler
Barbara Clifford
Mike Coffey
Ephraim Cohen
Barry A. Cole
Corey Cole
Margot Comstock
Coco Conn
Hugo Cornwall
Bernie Cosell
Fred F. Coury
Chris Crawford
Laura Creighton
Ken Crossen
Paul V. Cubbage
Greta Curtis
Charles Daney
Hugh Daniel
Marc de Groot
Robert J. Deward
Buddy Diamond
Sam Dicker
Steven Dompier
Wes Dorman
John Draper
K. Eric Drexler
Les Earnest
Steven Edelman
Jim Edlin
Howard Eglowstein
Mary Eisenhart
John Ellenby
Philip Elmer-DeWitt
Doug Engelbart
Christopher Espinosa
Robert L. Evans
Erik Fair
Richard Fateman
Doug Faunt
J. Samuel Feldman
Dave Feldman
Lee Felsenstein
Jay Fenton
Gustavo A. Fernandez
Scott Fisher
Sharon Fisher
Robert Fleming
Fabrice Florin
Jim Forbes
Daniel Franklin
Steven Freedman
Gordon French
Robert Fulop
Dr. Brian R. Gaines
Steve Gano
David Gans
Gordon Garb
Robert Gaskins
John Gilmore
Brett Glass
William J. Godbout
Lynn Gold
Neal Goldstein
Bob "doc" Gonsalves
Geoff Goodfellow
Harry M. Goodman
James E. Goodnow II
James M Goodwin
Theodore W. Gray
Cordell Green
Richard Greenblatt
David Greene
Roger Gregory
Patrick Grever
Harvey Grosser
Eric Gullichsen
Mark Hamburg
Brian Hamlin
Bruce Hammond
Brian Harvey
Roy Harvey
Glen Haydon
Paul Heckel
Edson C. Hendricks
Dewayne Hendricks
Matt Herron
Andy Hertzfeld
Allan N. Hessenflow
Jack L. Hill
Rich Hilleman
Thom Hogan
Gerald R. Hogwett
Terry Holmes
Bob Hoover
Chuck House
David Hughes
Dave Hull
Gert Hulstein
Dick Huston
Michael R. Iddings
David Intersimone
Bob Jacobson
Steve Jamk
Tom Jennings
Jerry W. Jewell
Ted Kaehler
Linda (Rainbow) Kaplan
Richard Karpinski
Neil Katin
Mike Keith
Bob Keller
Charlie Kellner
Kevin Kelly
Martine Kempf
Bruce Kendall
David J. Kilbridge
Scott Kim
Walter R. Klappert
Ed Kleban
Helmi Kobler
Michael Korns
Allen Kossow
Daniel Kottke
Kai Krause
Stan Krute
Cherie Kushner
Fen LaBalme
Mark Lacas
Susan M. Lammers
Ludis Langens
Brenda Laurel
Andrew Layman
Timothy Leary
Alex Leavens
Roy Leban
Tim Lee
Dwight Leu
David Levitt
John Levy
Steven Levy
Jan Lewis
Eric Li
Mike Liebhold
Efrem Lipkin
John Little
Mark Lottor
Larry D. Lowe
Bela Lubkin
Dale Luck
James Lundblad
Eric Lyons
Paul Mace
Chris Macie
Jim Mackraz
H.S. Magnuski
Tom Mandel
Jiesing Mao
Wayne Martin
Tim May
David Maynard
Douglas Mc Kenna
Matthew McClure
Chuck McManis
Alan McNeil
Gregg McVicar
Brock Meeks
Roger Melen
Julia Menapace
Diana Merry
Mike Meyer
Robert J. Mical
Peter Midnight
Rick J. Miley
Mark S. Miller
Paul S. Miller
Jay Miner
John Mitchell
E. Miya
Charles H. Moore
Fred Moore
Andy Moorer
Chip Morningstar
George C. Morrow
Michael Naimark
Margo Nanny
Theodor Holm Nelson
Bryce Nesbitt
Niels C. Neustrup
Steve Newberry
Steve Newman
Terry G. Nikash
Lowell Noble
Mike O'Malley
Scott Ober
Fred W. Obermeier
Stephen Omohundro
Tim Oren
David Oster
Adam Paul
Debra Panasuck
Donn Parker
Howard Pearlmutter
Michael Perry
Christopher Philipp
Kevin Piette
Joe Popinski
George Por
Jef PouKanzer
Jonathan V. Post
Alexander C. Pournelle
Jerry Pournelle
Tim Pozar
J. R. Prohaska
Steve Purcell
Mark Rain
David Ramsey
Jef Raskin
Paul Reiche III
Ron Reisman
Randel Reiss
Howard Rheingold
Elaine Richards
Jeff Richards
Ty Roberts
Steven K. Roberts (N4RVE)
Barbara Robertson
Warren Robinett
Evan Robinson
Nicky Robinson
Henk B. Rogers
Tomas G. Rokicki
Joseph M. Rosen
Rick Ross
Ed Rotberg
Owen Rubin
Rudy Rucker
Sylvie Rueff
Todd Rundgren
Larry Ryan
Phil Salin
Jonathan Sand
Dean K. Sanderson
Stephen Satchell
Steve Saunders
Tristan Savatier
John M. Sawyer
Steven G. Sawyer
Robert W. Scheifler
Martin Schmitt
Leo Schwab
Thomas Scoville
Mark Seiden
Barry Shein
John Shoch
Daniel D. Silva
Larry Sinclair
David Small
David Snider
John Spain
David L. Sprague
Richard Stallman
W. Gregg Stefancik
Marc Stiegler
Maureen Stone
J. R. Stoner
Johan Strandberg
Michael Swaine
Dave Taylor
Peter J. Teige
Glenn Tenney
Susan Tenney
Larry Tesler
Dean Thomas
Levi Thomas
David Thornburg
Jack D. Trainor
Bud Tribble
Mike Van Pelt
Bruce VanNatta
John Walker
Bob Wallace
Walter E. (Gene) Wallis
Michael Ward
David Warman
Jim Warren
Scott Watson
Bruce Webster
Mike Weisert
Robert Weisse
John Wharton
James Wheaton
Lynn Wheeler
Guy Wicker
Scott Wiener
Harry Wilker
Timothy Williams
Dan Winkler
Vicki Winslow
Steve Witham
Marcos Woehrmann
Stephen Wolfram
Dick Wotiz
Steve Wozniak
Fred Wright
Larry Yaeger
Jeff Young

Hackers 5.0
13-15 October 1989

The one, the only, the original...

The Hackers Conference 5.0 13-15 October 1989

Yes, there really is going to be another Hackers Conference this year. Will this be the last one? Who knows...

This is your personal invitation to The Hackers Conference 5.0 to be held in Saratoga, California. In the past couple of years, no matter how early we sent out the invitations, most people waited until the last minute. This year, we waited until the last minute. Be sure to send in your application ASAP!

We aren't sure yet what the "theme" for this year will be, but current hot topics are bandwidth and cyberspace (or virtual reality.) Should we call it Cyber Reality or Virtual Space to please both camps? The agenda is being developed over the next month or two by David Boulton and Tom Mandel. The agenda is flexible, tailored to suit the desires of this year's attendees. Be sure to let us know your ideas for the agenda.

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Organizer

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July 1989

Whom should we invite?

Every year a few people say "I'm not a Hacker." We don't use the term "hacker" in the same way as does the media. We believe that hacking is more a personality and has no sinister overtones. After Hackers 2.0, Bob Bickford defined a hacker as: **"Any person who derives joy from discovering ways to circumvent limitations."** The term "hacker" is usually associated with computers, but all professions have their hackers.

If you know somebody who should be invited, send us some information about the person. Please be sure to include a current and complete mailing address. The invitations committee will consider your request for this year if time and space permit. We want people from many, and diverse disciplines to attend Hackers.

Fees and Applications

If you have any trouble paying the conference fee, please send in your application immediately along with a brief note explaining what assistance is needed. Don't let a problem with the conference fee stand in your way. People that received a scholarship in the past are now able to assist others.

Every year we try to vary the mix of attendees. Add the limited space and increased demand, and the result is that not every one can attend Hackers. Whenever possible, we'll give preference to international attendees, those outside of California, and first time attendees.

Donations and Assistance

As always, we need your help. We need funding for the midnight buffets, continuous munchies, Sunday brunch, the evening at the Exploratorium, and other expenses. Thanks to the generous donations last year by John Walker and Scott Wiener we were able to have a "Hackers and Friends" night at the Exploratorium. I hope that we'll be able to continue this wonderful tradition.

We also need to provide many scholarships, and want to provide travel assistance for a few "starving" hackers. Paying the full fee (or more) might mean someone else who otherwise couldn't afford the conference can now attend. Now if only all those companies would provide the equipment they said they would...

The Hackers Conference is still sponsored by The Point Foundation which is a 501C(3) corporation. Charity aside, most companies view this as a worthwhile PR expenditure.

Hackers 4.0 Sponsors and Donors

The following people and companies provided equipment and assistance for Hackers 4.0:

ACIUS;
Apple Computer;
Ashton-Tate;
Autodesk and John Walker;
BIX;
Blyth;
Claris;
Dove;
Fry's Electronics;
Jasmine;
Bob Keller;
Koala Technologies;
Pacific Telesis Foundation;
Priam;
TOPS;
Scott Wiener;
Sony Corporation;
Spangenberg Theatre;
Western Hardware and Tool of San Francisco;
Wolfram Research;
and many anonymous donors.

Thanks

This year's organizing committee includes: Andrew Beals, Bob Bickford, David Boulton, Steve Cisler, Mary Eisenhart, Erik Fair, David Gans, Brett Glass, Geoff Goodfellow, Tom Mandel, Jef PosKanzer, Johan Strandberg, Glenn Tenney, and Susan Tenney. Without the help of these and many other volunteers, this conference would not be taking place. And a special thank you to Buddy Diamond, and Roger Gregory.

Be seeing you 13-15 October.

Glenn S. Tenney
Conference Organizer

Questions people are always asking

Is there any way to uninvite someone?

Send us email or a letter detailing why you think someone shouldn't be invited again. Bear in mind that just being obnoxious isn't usually considered reason enough for the invitations committee to uninvite someone.

Why not have the conference someplace else?

Finding a place that can deal with our continuous activities is not that easy, especially in our price range. Some sites wouldn't allow us to have any midnight buffets, but everyone wants that. We're also getting used to dealing with the Summer camp, and we have the entire facility to ourselves so that people can do most anything they want. Besides, many people really like our current site. However, I've spent hours, and will continue, trying to find alternative sites. Would you mind paying double?

Is there an alternative to bunk beds?

The camp keeps trying to improve the quality of the bunk beds. There are only about 40 regular beds available in smaller rooms. We try to assign them to people that really can't sleep on a bunk. Most people only get 4 hours of sleep a night during the conference, and don't feel bunk beds are detrimental. Actually, many people like the "summer camp" ambiance. Some people that live nearby commute, and there are some motels about 10 minutes away, but they are pricey.

I won't be sleeping over, is there a reduced fee?

Our deal with the camp is based on a flat fee per attendee regardless of whether a person sleeps over, or attends for only a few hours.

Can I bring my spouse, children or a guest?

Most importantly, this is an invitational conference. There simply isn't enough room for everyone to bring a spouse or children. Children guests, and minor attendees, pose a liability risk that the organizers simply won't take. In an effort to bring friends and families together, we're planning (if we get the funding) an evening at the San Francisco Exploratorium the evening before the conference (12 October.)

Do you do anything besides plan the Hackers Conference?

All of us on the organizing committee have our jobs or businesses to worry about. This year, for example, I have a demo to get ready for Comdex...